The green-dashed AE boundary line is set 120 feet from the perimeter monitoring well rings. After delineation drilling identifies the horizontal extent of the ore deposits in more detail, the ore deposits may be slightly larger than they are shown in Figure 3. Based on the horizontal expansion of the ore deposits, the perimeter monitoring well rings may move slightly outward from the location shown in Figure 3, because they are located 400 feet from the injection and production wells completed in the ore deposits. A shift of the perimeter monitoring well rings would result in a corresponding shift of the AE boundary, because it is located 120 from the perimeter monitoring well rings. Powertech does not expect the shift in the AE boundary to extend farther than the boundary located ¼-mile away from the ore deposit boundaries shown in Figure 3. Therefore, the maximum possible extent of the final AE boundary would be the line ¼-mile away from the ore deposits as shown in their current locations in Figure 3. In most cases, the AE boundary will not extend that far. In order to extend the AE boundary past the ¼-mile boundary, Powertech would be required to submit a new AE application, which would trigger the public review process.

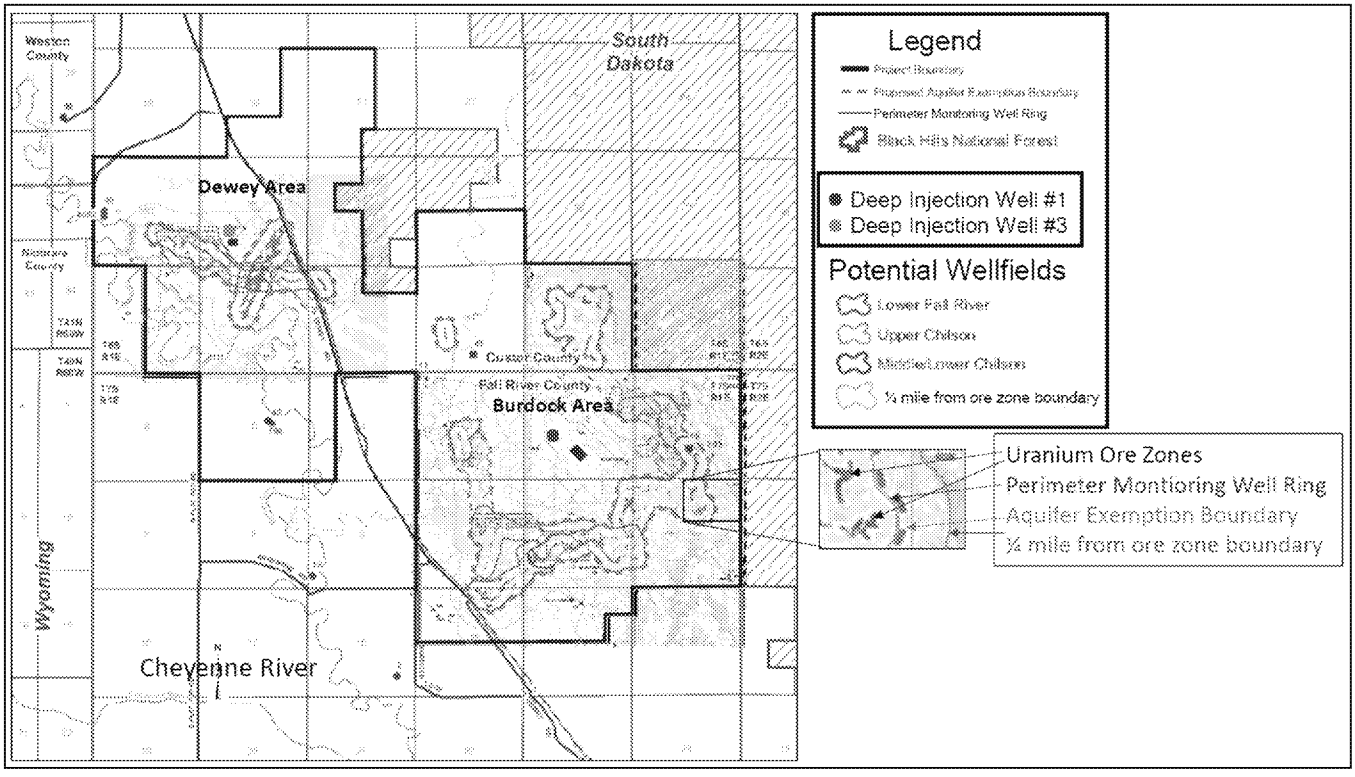

Figure 3. Areas of the Inyan Kara Group aquifers proposed for exemption.

Placing the AE boundary 120 feet from the perimeter monitoring well ring is the same approach as proposed in the previous 2017 AE Record of Decision document. The EPA is now clarifying that the AE boundary may shift slightly outward from the location shown in Figure 3. The AE boundary will not shift beyond the boundary located ¼-mile from ore deposits as they are shown in Figure 3.